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FARM BUSINESS FACTS.

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A radio interview between M. M. Sandstrom, Agricultural Marketing Service, and Wallace Kadderly, Radio Service, broadcast Thursday, April 11, 1940, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour.

KADDERLY:

(ad lib) And from the Agricultural Marketing Service - to tell us about crop prospects for the country as a whole - here is Marvin Sandstrom.

SANDSTROM:

The April Crop Report came out late yesterday afternoon. Since the year is yet young, Wallace, this report is largely confined to winter wheat and rye, and the fruit crops.

KADDERLY:

We realize that, Sandy, but in general, what does your early report show?

SANDSTROM:

As of April 1, it shows that our winter wheat and rye crops will be rather light - a winter wheat crop probably a fourth smaller than last year and fourth smaller than average. Rye also suffered from the drought last fall. For the country as a whole, pastures and range grass are a little late - but average prospects are ahead. Fruits, too, are about in average condition despite some winter injury. And the general crop and moisture situation is not greatly different from the average at this season during the past several years.

KADDERLY:

So the general crop outlook is fully up to average for recent years. That is for the country as a whole.

SANDSTROM:

For the country as a whole, yes. Regionally the report points out that west of the Rocky Mountains and in Montana, prospects for crops, pastures, and the range lands appear good to excellent. But a little further east - over most of the Great Plains - a large acreage of winter wheat has failed because of last fall's drought. Also - over much of the Great Plains - prospects for the spring-sown crops are not what they should be, due to the fall drought.

KADDERLY:

Which means rather short supplies of subsoil moisture for the development of these spring seeded crops.

SANDSTROM:

That's true for most of the Great Plains area, with the exception of western Kansas and southeastern Colorado. These Kansas and Colorado areas show a fair supply of surface moisture at present.

KADDERLY:

But how about Dixie? The Cotton Belt and early vegetable areas of the Southeast had a pretty severe winter.

SANDSTROM:

Yes, over all of the southern areas crops and pastures have made a late start but as yet the lateness of the season is not serious. Southern fruits, of course,

SANDSTROM (Continued)

suffered from the severe cold. Therefore late spring and early summer supplies of citrus fruits will be smaller than last season. But the condition of southern peach trees is still better than average for this time of year.

KADDERLY:

Further north, Sandy - over most of the Corn Belt and the East. --- What's the story in those parts of the country.

SANDSTROM:

Over nearly all of the northern area east of the Missouri River, the weather was cold up to April 1. However, winter grains and the meadows appear to have suffered but little damage. And most of the fruit trees escaped with little damage.

KADDERLY:

So much for your summary of the general crop report. Now, Sandy, I believe you have another report there.

SANDSTROM:

Yes, on cattle feeding. This report - released at noon today - says that feeders in the 11 Corn Belt States have about 2 percent more cattle on feed than on April 1 last year. Only Kansas, Nebraska and Michigan showed decreases. The numbers for the entire Corn Belt is probably the largest for that date in the past four years, but fewer than were on feed April 1 in most of the years before 1934. Marketings of cattle from the Corn Belt during the past 3 months were materially larger than in this period last year. That's the story, Wallace.

KADDERLY:

Ad lib. Close.

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